

kind of action in the United States of America, whether it happens to Texas or Louisiana or Michigan or any other State in this Nation, and we truly ought to be outraged and stand up and say we are not going to stand for that secrecy anymore. Let the agencies that exist as a part of our government give us the information that we need to know that our government is working in our behalf and not working against us; that we are not having some kind of a political soiree in this country that is going to allow power to be held by a few at the expense of so very, very many.

We even had destroyed documents over time. What is there to hide? If there is nothing on the tapes that is incriminating to anyone, then make it public and let us see them. If there is something there, as certainly the indication is starting to be—why else is there a cover-up—then perhaps there may be criminal activity. Something is wrong with this picture and something is going wrong with our government. It is time for us to begin to ask the questions and demand the answers from all of the agencies that can tell the citizens of this country that we are not going to be living in a police state, that we are going to be able to all participate in making the policy of this Nation and the policy of our States, and that we are not going to have to fight our way through the darkness of night in order to play the role that we so rightly deserve.

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE CONTROVERSY AND POSSIBLE FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, we are calling today on Secretary Ridge to uncover the cover-up. What have you got to hide?

On May 11, 2003, Mr. Speaker, a number of Democratic members of the Texas House of Representatives absented themselves from the floor of the State House in Austin, Texas, in a proper procedural move to defeat a quorum in that body. Subsequently, on that same date, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Tom Craddick, ordered the Texas Department of Public Safety, the troopers, to locate the absent legislators and return them to the capitol. The DPS thereupon took steps to locate the lawmakers and contacted the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, charged with defeating terrorism, and asked for Federal assistance. They have now had to admit and acknowledge that they contacted the Air and Marine Interdiction Coordination Center, a department within DHS, seeking information; and they acknowledge they used Federal resources to respond to this request in spite of the fact that it is a State political matter. In fact, in vio-

lation of the law, a criminal tracking system was used. The Department of Homeland Security has now admitted that the department has in its possession certain audiotapes, transcripts, and other documents concerning its contacts with Texas DPS officials. In spite of this admission, the department has failed and refused and still fails and refuses to release this information.

Disturbingly, Mr. Speaker, now the Secretary of Homeland Defense has admitted that there is an ongoing criminal investigation into this matter. But it only gets worse. Now we learn the FBI has been involved. Initially the FBI denied involvement. Now they have admitted otherwise. On May 13, the Houston Chronicle reported, "Spokesmen for the Justice Department and the FBI indicated those agencies likely would have no reason to assist the State officers in apprehending the Democrats." On that same date, "A Justice spokesman said Tuesday he knew of no role for the department." Later on that date, "FBI spokesman Bill Carter said he was unaware of any request for that agency to assist. 'I don't know of any authority that would allow us to even contemplate getting involved.'"

But, Mr. Speaker, the story begins to change. A couple of days later, on June 5, the FBI denied participation but they did not know what was about to come out, because State Representative Juan Manuel Escobar reported he got a cellular phone call from Corpus Christi-based FBI Special Agent David Troutman asking whether State Representative Gabi Canales was with him.

"The FBI was conducting no surveillance at all," said Special Agent Bob Doguim. But listen. He said, "I'm not saying no call took place." Later they said, "An FBI spokesman said agency action was nothing really uncommon." Dallas Morning News, June 6.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we learned that phone records for Deputy Attorney General Jay Kimbrough show a 5 minute 16 second phone call at 4:24 p.m. May 12 to an Ardmore, Oklahoma, FBI office. That is after State officials learned that the Federal Aviation Administration had tracked the plane of one of the missing lawmakers. A half hour later the records show a return phone call, 2 minutes 16 seconds, from the FBI office to Mr. Kimbrough. Mr. Kimbrough is head of Homeland Security in Texas. After the FBI saying they had nothing to do with it, now we have got the phone records. Now we are getting to the truth.

Additionally, at the State level, on May 14, the Texas DPS ordered the destruction of all notes, photos, correspondence and other records relating to the members of the House of Representatives and the order specifically contained the words "retain no copies."

In brief, it is our position that any effort to use Federal law enforcement or Homeland Security resources to participate in a State political matter is

improper and illegal. Further, the destruction of records by DPS, which limits the ability to determine the extent of Federal involvement, coupled with the refusal by the Department of Homeland Security and Tom Ridge to produce its records, are matters of great concern.

Mr. Ridge, stop the cover-up. Release the information. We want full and complete audiotapes of all conversation, full and complete copies of all communications, tapes, videotapes, recordings, letters, notes, documents, schedules, summaries, indices, written records of every sort, full and complete copies of all communications, full and complete original files, full and complete records of telephone calls and contacts, full and complete records of any and all persons, Federal officials, State officials, law enforcement personnel, agencies or entities that have contacted or been contacted by Homeland Security.

Mr. Ridge should be advised further that the U.S. Congress may request the production of additional information as a result of his testimony. We will expect him to acknowledge under oath that no records have been altered, deleted, destroyed, redacted or otherwise withheld in whole or in part. It is critical that we request a subpoena and a subpoena duces tecum be issued forthwith and this information be brought before the United States Congress.

The Department of Public Safety destroyed records. Homeland Security has admitted to possessing and withholding audiotapes and other information. They have now admitted that a criminal investigation is ongoing. The FBI claimed to be not involved in any way. Now we learn of telephone calls to and from the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, is this just what we might call another third-rate burglary? Mr. Ridge, stop the cover-up. Release the information. Come clean with the United States Congress and the American public.

ANOTHER TERRORIST ATTACK IN JERUSALEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, the news from Jerusalem today is horrifying. Another terrorist attack on a civilian bus. So many dead. Many more are injured and even more are bereaved. Today's atrocity follows and may have been in response to an attack yesterday on a Hamas leader in Gaza which injured its target but killed innocent victims. When will this cycle of violence end? Not even a week has passed since the President received the commitment of Ariel Sharon and Abu Mazen to do everything in their power to stop the killing and pursue the path of negotiations. Instead, we have terrorist attacks, attempted assassinations, horrific retaliations and more